

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-69. (Canceled).

70. (Currently Amended) A suture anchor system, comprising:

a suture anchor having a radially expandable body including a bore extending longitudinally from a proximal end, and a tapered suture engaging tip at a distal end, the suture engaging tip having formed therein a suture thread-engaging groove, wherein the taper of the suture engaging tip extends a distance at least equal to the length of the suture-thread engaging groove; [[and]]

a suture disposed in the suture thread-engaging groove; and

an expander pin configured for insertion into the bore of the body so as to effect a radial expansion of the body from a first diameter to a second, larger diameter.

71. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the suture anchor further includes a through-hole extending therethrough in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the anchor.

72. (Canceled).

73. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the suture anchor is comprised of an expandable sleeve in engagement with the suture engaging tip.

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 73, wherein the expandable sleeve and the suture engaging tip are threadingly engaged.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the suture anchor includes an external surface feature for engaging bone.

76. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 75, wherein the external surface feature is selected from the group consisting of ridges, wedges, and fins.

77. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the expander pin includes a tool-engaging bore extending from a proximal end thereof.

78. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the expander pin includes a surface feature effective to assist in the radial expansion of the body.
79. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the suture anchor further includes a pair of longitudinally extending slits extending from the proximal end thereof.
80. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 79, wherein the expander pin includes a pair of fins having a complementary shape to the slits of the anchor and being configured to engage the slits and expand the anchor.
81. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the expander pin is tapered.
82. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the suture anchor is formed from a bioabsorbable material.
83. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 82, wherein the bioabsorbable material is selected from the group consisting of high density polyethylene, polypropylene, polylactic acid, and polysulfone.
84. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 70, wherein the expansion pin is formed from a bioabsorbable material.
85. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 84, wherein the bioabsorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid and polysulfone.
86. (Previously Presented) A suture anchor system, comprising:
a radially expandable suture anchor including a bore extending longitudinally from a proximal end, and a tapered suture engaging tip at a distal end, the suture engaging tip having formed therein a suture thread-engaging groove, wherein the taper of the suture engaging tip extends a distance at least equal to the length of the suture-thread engaging groove and the suture anchor further includes a through-hole extending therethrough in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the anchor; and
an expander pin configured for insertion into the bore of the suture anchor so as to effect a radial expansion of the suture anchor from a first diameter to a second, larger diameter.

87. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 86, wherein the suture anchor is comprised of an expandable sleeve in engagement with the suture engaging tip.

88. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 86, wherein the suture anchor includes an external surface feature for engaging bone.

89. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 86, wherein the suture anchor further includes a pair of longitudinally extending slits extending from a proximal end thereof.

90. (Previously Presented) A suture anchor system, comprising:

a radially expandable suture anchor including a bore extending longitudinally from a proximal end, and a tapered suture engaging tip at a distal end, the suture engaging tip having formed therein a suture thread-engaging groove, wherein the taper of the suture engaging tip extends a distance at least equal to the length of the suture-thread engaging groove; and

an expander pin configured for insertion into the bore of the suture anchor so as to effect a radial expansion of the suture anchor from a first diameter to a second, larger diameter,

wherein the suture anchor further includes a pair of longitudinally extending slits extending from the proximal end thereof, and the expander pin includes a pair of fins having a complementary shape to the slits of the anchor and being configured to engage the slits and expand the anchor.

91. (New) A suture anchor system, comprising:

a bioabsorbable suture anchor having a radially expandable body including a bore extending longitudinally from a proximal end, and a tapered suture engaging tip at a distal end, the suture engaging tip having formed therein a suture thread-engaging groove, wherein the taper of the suture engaging tip extends a distance at least equal to the length of the suture-thread engaging groove; and

an expander pin configured for insertion into the bore of the body so as to effect a radial expansion of the body from a first diameter to a second, larger diameter.

92. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the suture anchor further includes a through-hole extending therethrough in a direction transverse to a longitudinal axis of the anchor.

93. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the suture anchor is comprised of an expandable sleeve in engagement with the suture engaging tip.
94. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the suture anchor includes an external surface feature for engaging bone.
95. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the expander pin includes a tool-engaging bore extending from a proximal end thereof.
96. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the expander pin includes a surface feature effective to assist in the radial expansion of the body.
97. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the suture anchor further includes a pair of longitudinally extending slits extending from the proximal end thereof.
98. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the expander pin is tapered.
99. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the bioabsorbable suture anchor is made of a material selected from the group consisting of high density polyethylene, polypropylene, polylactic acid, and polysulfone.
100. (New) The system of claim 91, wherein the expansion pin is formed from a bioabsorbable material.
101. (New) The system of claim 100, wherein the bioabsorbable material is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid and polysulfone.